THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). With the completion of election and the restoration of the popular government in Punjab, it is hoped that the outstanding issues between Punjab and Haryana will be resolved through discussions and mutual adjustments. The Govt. of India will provide whatever assistance is required towards an amicable solution to the problem.

Blackmarketing of Petroleum Products

1407. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1277 on November 28, 1991 and state:

(a) whether regarding black marketing of petroleum products has since been collected so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The information has not yet become available. It is being collected from all the States.

[*English*]

Replacing Physical Control on Agricultural Sector

1408. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace physical control on the Agricultural sector by price mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). There is generally no physical control in the agricultural sector.

Under the existing agricultural price mechanism, the interests of the farmers are being ensured by announcing minimum support prices for major agricultural commodities and organising price support operations by Government and co-operative agencies.

Prawn Culture Project in West Bengal

1409. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any prawn project in West Bengal is being implemented with the financial assistance from the Department of Bio-technology; and

(b) if so, the location thereof and the year of its commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Department of Bio-technology at present is not supporting any prawn culture project in West Bengal.

Oil Exploration in Eastern Areas

1410. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for oil exploration in the Eastern areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and